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<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/619,958	SUGIURA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jacob Y. Choi	2875	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/15/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,6-13,16 and 17.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                 | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material           | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

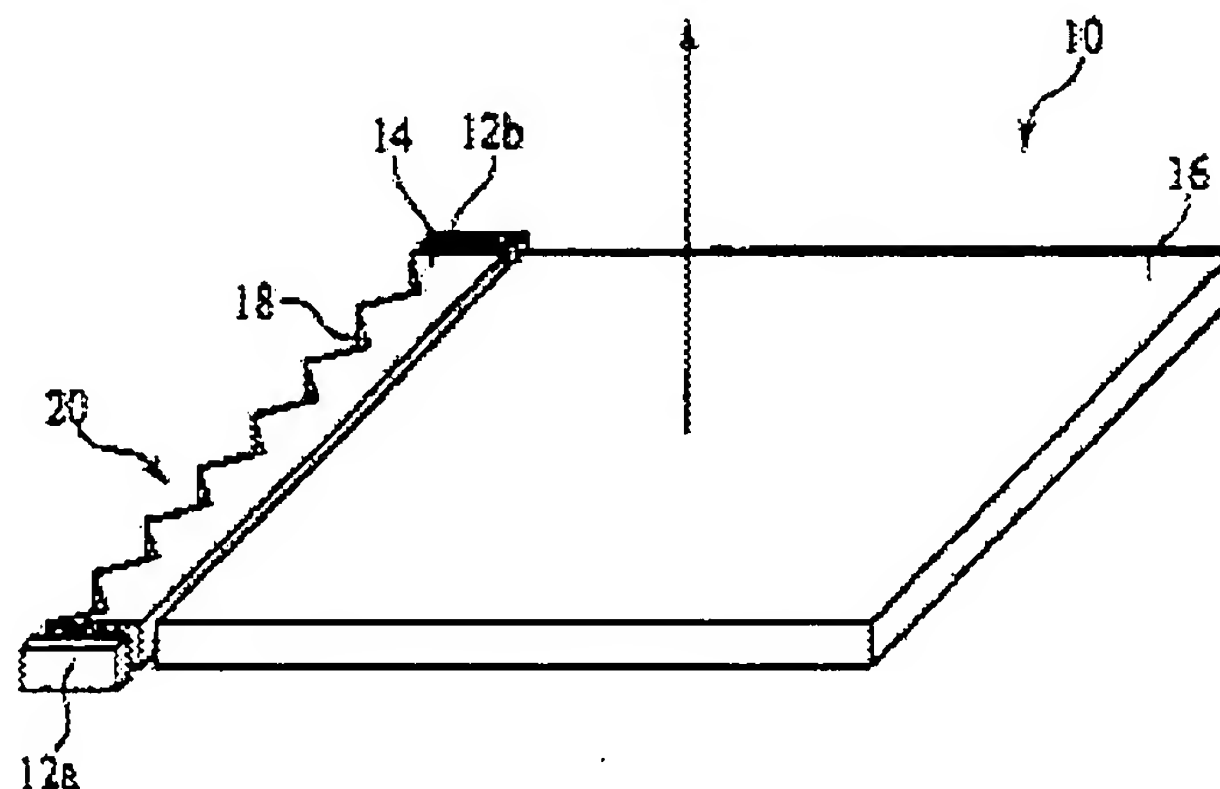
1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the claims, independent claims 1 & 13, recites a light guide plate, an intermediate light guide disposed along one side face of the light guide plate, and a light emitting element disposed at an end face in a lengthwise direction of the intermediate light guide. The outer side face of the intermediate light guide is provided with a wedge-shaped or minute irregularities provided distant from the end face of the intermediate light guide. The grooves/minute irregularities extend from -1 mm to +0.5 mm from an extension line of an end face of the light guide plate close to the light emitting element.

Applicant's arguments, see pages 7-8, filed 9/15/2005, with respect to claim rejections - 35 USC § 103 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Prior art references, both, Maeda and Sasagawa are directed towards angular ranges, pitches, and heights of the grooves. However, does not specify details of the starting/ending point of the grooves, nor the recite range -1 mm to +0.5 mm, nor is there any motivation to combine them, therefore, the claims are deemed patentable over the prior art of record.

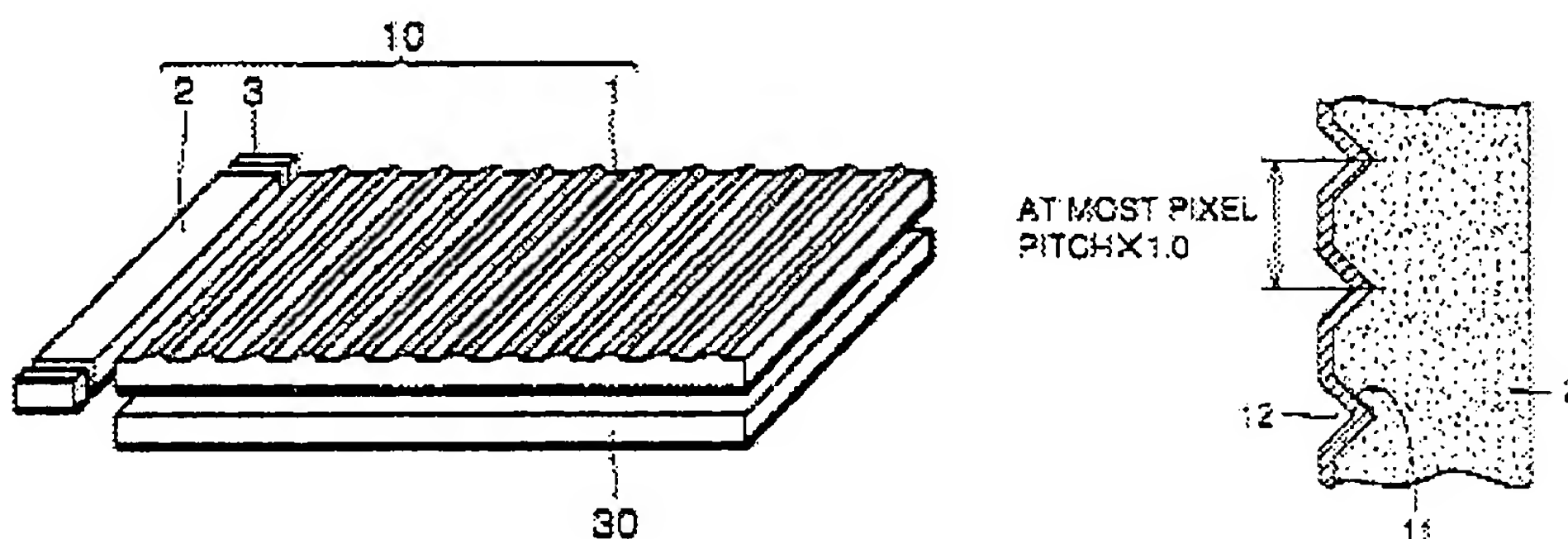
Maeda et al. (USPN 6,883,924) teaches a light guide plate (16), an intermediate light guide (14), and a light emitting element (12a, 12b), wherein the outer side face of the intermediate light guide is provided with at least one of plurality of grooves (18, 20) of wedge-shaped cross section or a plurality of minute irregularities provided distant

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from the end face of the intermediate light guide, and a reflective film (18, 24, 118) formed on the at least one of grooves or irregularities.



Similarly, Sasagawa et al. (USPN 6,636,283) teaches a light guide plate (1), an intermediate light guide (2), and a light emitting element (3), wherein the outer side face of the intermediate light guide is provided with at least one of plurality of grooves (12) of wedge-shaped cross section or a plurality of minute irregularities provided distant from the end face of the intermediate light guide, and a reflective film (11) formed on the at least one of grooves or irregularities.



Claims 1-3, 6-13, & 16-17 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Response to Amendment***

2. Examiner acknowledges that the applicant has amended claims 1-3, 6, 7, 13, 16, & 17 and claims 4, 5, 14, & 15 are canceled to be incorporated to independent claims 1 & 16.

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments, see pages 7-8, filed 9/15/2005, with respect to claims 1-17 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The claim rejections under 35 USC § 102 & 103 of 6/15/2005 has been withdrawn.

### ***Conclusion***


4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacob Y. Choi whose telephone number is (571) 272-2367. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (10:00-7:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JC



**JOHN ANTHONY WARD**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**